

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/USSR

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Construction of Lanchou-Sinkiang Railroad

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REFERENCES

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1. In 1951 WANG Chih-t'ai (3769/2388/3141), commander of the 2 Army Group of the Chinese Communist forces, was directing the construction of the roadbed for a railroad from Lanchou (N 36-03, E 103-41) to Hsinghsinghsia (N 41-48, E 95-09), on the Sinkiang border.¹ In addition to his troops, WANG had some 200,000 slave laborers from the central and southern provinces of China.
2. When completed, this railroad will link up with another which will cross Sinkiang Province and connect with rail systems in the USSR.²

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1. Comment. In view of the difficulties of supply and terrain, it is probable that no track has yet been laid (2 June 1953). It is quite possible that the roadbed has been cleared and that track-laying operations could be started if supplies were available.

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Comment. On 11 March 1953 the New China News Agency announced that 184 kilometers of rails were scheduled to be laid during 1953 on the Lanchou-Sinkiang railroad. In December 1952 the announced goal was 800 kilometers.

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personnel from the 4 and 7 Armies had been organized into the 1 and 2 Construction Engineering Divisions of the Chinese Communist Army, but did not list railroad building among their functions.

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2. Comment.

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the work is not more advanced than on the line described in paragraph 1.

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